horticulture development have been taken up in a more focused manner. So far, an amount of Rs. 4320.96 lakhs has been provided to Andhra Pradesh.

Research regarding viability of Jatropha plant

1834. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE b pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has done any research on the Jatropha plant and its viability for agricultural promotion;

(b) if so, the details of its possible utilities; and

(c) the action taken by Government to promote Jatropha cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

- *Jatropha* oil as bio-fuel.
- *Jatropha* cake as animal feed
- *Jatropha* plant has medicinal value.
- Flowers of *Jatropha* attract bees.
- Use as a wind break or as a hedge for erosion control.
- *Jatropha* oil seed cake is used as organic manure.

(i) The study on evaluation, characterization on *Jatropha curcas* is being carried out under the All India Coordinated Research Network on Underutilized Crops at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa Campus, New Delhi through SAUs.

(ii) Adhoc Research Project on Survey, collection, evaluation and multiplication of elite germplasm of *Pongamia pinnata, and Jatropha curcas* at Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture Hyderabad *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2004.

(iii) Adhoc Net work project on 'Tree Borne Oilseeds' (TBOs) at Directorate of oil seeds research, Hyderabad *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2005.

(iv) Research Project on Germplasm collection, genetic improvement and multiplication of elite material in *Jatropha* at Chaudhary Charan

Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar *w.e.f.* 1st August, 2005.

- 328 farmers, NGO & State Government Officers were trained on cultivation of *Jatropha* and Karanj and National Research Centre for Agroforestry, Jhansi.
- Three biofuel based agroforestry models developed in the farmer's field and 113 accessions of *Jatropha* collected from Northern India.

(v) A Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" is being implemented in the country through National Oil Seeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board (NOVOD) to accelerate the production of Tree Borne Oilseeds including jatropha during 10th Plan peirod. The scheme envisages development of elite planting material and model plantation, establishment of TBOs garden, installation pre-processing and processing facilities etc. The needs based research & development programmes have also been initiated by making networking of research institutions in the country. Besides, model plantation have been organized by using elite planting material in more than 8000 ha. area during 2004-05 in 21 States.

Subsidy to micro irrigation

†1835 SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a proposal to provide subsidy upto 50 per cent to micro irrigation project;

(b) if so, the outline of the proposal and whether it is a fact that the agricultural land under micro irrigation so far is only 20 lakh hectares;

(c) if not, the facts thereof; and

(d) the potential of expansion of micro irrigation as a result of the above proposal?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.